

Federal City Performing Arts Association

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 4, 1997

1313 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC

DIRECTORS: Present: Fred Boykin, Jim Coyne, Bill Eadie, Jack Gerard, Thom Gibb, Darrell Lewis, Jeff Peirce, John Perkins, Joe Vignali, Bob Wheeler.

Absent: Jim Madigan, Henry Salevsky (proxy assigned to Peirce), Robert York.

STAFF: Jim Holloway

GUESTS: Michael Smith

I. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order at 5:07 pm by Boykin.

II. European Tour Proposal

Boykin observed that the European Tour Committee has been working diligently since the Board accepted the concept of the tour at its January 22, 1997 meeting, and that all conditions stipulated at that time to the committee were being adhered to. An open forum with the committee for all chorus and Board members had been held on Sunday, April 27 at 4:00 pm, and a straw vote of chorus members was taken at the end of rehearsal that evening. Yet, questions and concerns regarding the proposed tour and its consequences persist. The committee is at a bench-mark stage; through a formal bid process a tour agent has been chosen, but before a contract is signed and a down payment is made, the Board's continued commitment is sought. Also, further pursuit of several major fundraising initiatives is on hold.

The straw vote of chorus members revealed 66 in favor, 24 opposed, and 23 undecided. Boykin summarized the comments we've received regarding the tour as follows:

Reasons to Go: It would be a positive outreach to the gay community in Europe (15), It presents a challenge to the chorus, it stretches us and we should take the risk (15), We are ready for this musically (12), Because it's time (11), It will raise the level of recognition for the chorus in the local/musical community (8), It will build cohesiveness as a group (6), It will be fun (6), It will help us in fundraising in the future (6). (6 responded that they were supportive even though they were not going).

Reasons Not to Go: I don't think we should go if others in the group can't afford it (9), Not enough lead time, need more time to save money (7), Extra effort that will be required to go should be put into audience building (7), Our current resources are too stretched to go to Europe (7), Don't understand the goal of going to Europe (4), They're probably won't be 60 that can go when the final #s are tallied (3)

Reasons Undecided: We should put it off one more year (5), We are not ready financially for this venture (4), It will create "have" and "have nots" (3), I don't want to go because there are others who

can't afford it (3), The price is too high (3). (3 responded that the exposure will be good for the chorus' reputation).

A thorough discussion followed.

Boykin asked Board members now to commit to continue the tour planning by voting Yes for the tour, or to discontinue the tour planning by voting No for the tour. Voting was held by secret ballot. **7 in favor, 4 opposed, no abstentions. Action to continue European Tour carried.**

III. Adjournment

Boykin adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. E. Perkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John E. Perkins

Secretary

FCPAA